

Outreach Newsletter

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Welcome Back Region 6!

- **September 1st** is the deadline for the 2015-2016 [Connectivity Grant](#) for all Indiana public and charter schools who have filed for federal E-Rate discount
- **September 4th** is the deadline for each Local Education Agency to select a Corporation Test Coordinator. This year you are also able to select an additional staff member access to the Test Coordinator Center. This designation is done via [DOE Online](#).
- **September 4th** is the deadline for all HS juniors to apply for Superintendent Ritz's [Student Advisory Council](#)
- **September 18th** is the last day to submit your selection for the

A new school year brings all sorts of possibilities. Full of challenges and promise, fall is our favorite time because all the educators in our lives get to do what they do best-teach.

This fall is a time of new beginnings for us as well. We have added to our team a new Outreach Coordinator. [Jennifer Kwiatkowski](#) joined the region 6 team in June, and she is looking forward to serving you and the children of Northwest Indiana throughout this school year and for many years to come.

The 2015-2016 school year also brings with it many exciting changes for educators throughout the state. This summer the DOE allowed each district to choose their own formative assessment. This change allows for local decisions and the freedom to choose what's best for our students.

Additionally, the DOE is now instituting a new online tool for School Improvement Plans. By using [ASSIST](#) all schools in Indiana will have access to a state-of-the-art, comprehensive system. This tool has already been piloted by 125 schools throughout the state. Feedback from these pilot schools paved the way for the rest of the schools to participate.

The fall of 2015 has been a time of change for us all, but [Linda](#) and [Jennifer](#) would like to take the chance to thank you for all that you do for the students in our Region. It is our pleasure and honor to help you and in turn improve the learning of our students.

[formative assessment grant](#). Please visit the [DOE Formative Assessment Grant site](#) for additional information.

- **November 6th** is the deadline for principals to submit material for Family Friendly School Consideration. Please refer to [Family Friendly Handbook](#) for more information.

As always, we are a team in Region 6. So if you ever need to contact one of your coordinators, please don't hesitate.

All the best-

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Educator's Toolbox



No matter if you are a seasoned teacher, new to the classroom, or an educational leader reviewing and relearning best practices are always good ideas. That's why this school year we will be including easy to use, ready to go tips that you can share with all the educators in your life.

This issue we will focus on reaching all students. Using Doug Lemov's *Team Like a Champion* series as a starting off point, let's make sure all our students are heard.

Strategy #1: No Opt Out

At any given time, there's a good chance that at least one student needs a little redirection. This issue becomes most obvious when a student responds with "I don't know." In a high-performing classroom "I don't know" cannot be the end of the conversation. Instead an instructor can employ a "No Opt Out" philosophy.

Using this strategy, a teacher has four possible choices whenever a student can't or doesn't answer a question asked.

1. The teacher can provide the answer and then have the student repeat the correct response.
2. Another student can provide the correct answer and then the original student repeats the correct response.
3. The teacher can provide cues to help the student get to the correct answer.
4. Another student can provide cues to help the original student find the answer.

Strategy #2: Cold Call

In traditional classrooms, students raised their hands and the teacher called on those students. Today we all do everything we can to make sure that every student in the room is ready, understands, and is heard. Cold Call helps teachers and students easily. To use Cold Call an instructor calls on any student in the room regardless of a raised hand.

Cold Call helps an instructor maintain a pace in his/her room while at the same time pushing all the students in the room.

Strategy #3: Call and Response

All of our students want a chance to participate. Using a group response can improve both the enthusiasm and the engagement in a class. Additionally Call and Response reinforces key concepts.

There are many types of Call and Response:

- Repeat
 - Students repeat what a teacher just said or they finish a commonly used phrase.
 - Report
 - Students work on a question/problem. Then they call out the answer in unison.
 - Reinforce
 - Students repeat the answer that was just given by either the teacher or another student.
 - Review
 - The teacher asks a review question, and the students call out the answer.
 - Solve
 - The teacher asks students to solve a problem in real time, and the students call out the answer.
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Assessment Updates

Throughout the summer the Office of Assessment has released several updates and memos. Currently school districts throughout Indiana are selecting a formative assessment for students in grades 3-10. A list of approved vendors and the [Request to Participate](#) form are currently [available and accessible on the DOE site](#). In order to qualify for reimbursement the Request form must be completed by midnight on September 18th. As always your Region 6 coordinators are ready to help you with this important grant. Please email [Linda](#) or [Jennifer](#) with any questions or concerns.



The IDOE is thrilled to announce the launch of our INSchool app for educators and parents. INSchool is an innovative way for schools to communicate with parents. The app is available for free on both the iTunes and Android market now.



Superintendent Ritz's Back to School Message to Educators

Check out some of the upcoming professional development opportunities through the Northwest Indiana Education Service Center.



Ready NWI is hosting educational tours for counselors, teachers, and administrators this fall. Each tour will provide useful information for guiding and working with students.

Check out information on the following tours at Ready NWI:

- Hospitality Industry Tour on September 10th
- Manufacturing Industry Tour on October 10th
- Healthcare Industry Tour on November 12th

Register now. Space is limited.

Recent Outreach Professional Developments

BUILD YOUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TOOLBOX

This summer Outreach worked to facilitate consistent school improvement in five sessions throughout the state. Attendees attended sessions on data, elementary/secondary math, elementary literacy, educator effectiveness, and leadership.



The teachers at Bailly Preparatory Academy in Gary spent an entire day in July getting ready for the school year by examining their Accuity data. The staff then used their data results to create rigorous lessons and units for the 2015-2016 school year.



WIDA Can Do Descriptors and ELL modifications were the topic of the day at East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy during their August professional development.



Charter School of the Dunes prepared for the 2015-2016 school year by reviewing differentiated instruction. The teachers in attendance reviewed the key elements of DI and created three ready-to-use DI lessons.

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